

Form Letter	Comment Text
9	<p>I support the Western Heritage Alternative for the Great Divide Plan to balance the excess of industrialization of public lands. Wyoming needs more opportunities for public recreation, clean air and water, and desert wildlife. The Atlantic Rim and is one of the last remaining open country in an area that is rapidly being overrun by the oil and gas industry. These landscapes are such spectacular scenics that they are worthy of National Park status. I was shocked to learn that no baseline data exists with which to compare wildlife movement studies today. Please give appropriate protection to the wildlife migration corridors, crucial winter range, and within three miles of sage grouse leks and mountain plover nesting areas and raptor nests. This will allow production of the mineral resources with directional drilling while protecting the sensitive lands surface. Also protect the citizens' proposed wilderness by placing a moratorium on future oil and gas leasing there. I urge you to mandate low-impact types of drilling technologies and environmentally sensitive methods of oil and gas exploration. The time has come to require directional drilling to cluster wells and facilities in a few spots instead of sprawling them across the landscape. Manage livestock grazing at ecological carrying-capacity levels to prevent continued overgrazing on the Great Divide area. Give extra protection to the most important lands. The most important wildlife habitats, like the Powder Rim, Ferris Dunes and Chain Lakes deserve extra protection as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. These lands should also receive No Surface Occupancy protection from industrial developments, as should Native American sacred sites and historic trails eg: the Overland and Cherokee Trails. The oil & gas and coal industry has already caused significant degradation of air quality in the Class I air sheds of Wyoming. This area deserves better oversight, monitoring and evaluation by regulating development that contributes to increased acid rain and decreased visibility in the Class I airsheds of the mountains and wilderness areas. Likewise, I urge you to ensure compliance with the Clean water act by prohibiting surface discharge of wastewater from coalbed methane drilling in the North Platte River drainage and the Red Desert by requiring underground re-injection of wastewater, carefully regulating coalbed methane development, and ensuring mandatory "Best Management Practices" for the control of water pollution. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important plan.</p>

Commentors Who Submitted Form Letter 9

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